

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) An image processing device for emphasizing a contrast of an image, ~~which includes a means for converting data of an image from an~~ taken by an image sensor composed of a plurality of light-sensor circuits each representing a unit pixel and comprising a photoelectric converting element for producing a sensor current proportional to a quantity of incident light falling thereon, a MOS type transistor having a logarithmic output characteristic in a weak inverse state for converting the sensor current produced by the photoelectric converting element into a voltage signal, and an initializing means for initializing the sensor circuit by removing electric charge accumulated in the parasitic capacity of the photoelectric converting element by changing a drain voltage of the MOS type transistor to a level lower than a normal for a specified period, and an outputting means for outputting an image signal having a logarithmic response characteristic at a large sensor current and a sensor signal having a non-logarithmic response characteristic at a small sensor current,

wherein a whole luminous area of an image is divided into a plurality of continuous divisions, and the image data from the image sensor is converted by using a conversion table into image data with emphasis of a change in brightness in each of plural luminous divisions by using a conversion table for output data of the image sensor ~~the divisions to represent the luminous distribution like a gray level contour line map.~~

2. (canceled)

3. (original) An image processing device as defined in claim 1, wherein a whole brightness area of an image is divided into a plurality of continuous divisions, wider for a dark portion and narrower for a light portion desirable to be emphasized in contrast, and a continuous change in brightness in each of the divisions is emphasized.
4. (original) An image processing device as defined in claim 1, wherein a whole luminous area of an image is divided into a plurality of discrete divisions and a change in brightness in each of the divisions separately emphasized.
5. (original) An image processing device as defined in claim 4, wherein each of luminous areas between discrete divisions are converted into halftone image data.
6. (canceled)
7. (currently amended) An image processing method for emphasizing the contrast of an image ~~from taken by an image sensor~~[[,]] composed of a plurality of light-sensor circuits each representing a unit pixel and comprising a photoelectric converting element for producing a sensor current proportional to a quantity of incident light falling thereon, a MOS type transistor having a logarithmic output characteristic in a weak inverse state for converting the sensor current produced by the photoelectric converting element into a voltage signal, and an initializing means for initializing the sensor circuit by removing electric charge accumulated in the parasitic capacity of the photoelectric converting element by changing a drain voltage of the MOS type transistor to a level lower than a normal for a specified period, and an outputting means for outputting an image signal having a logarithmic response characteristic at a large sensor current and a sensor signal having a non-logarithmic response characteristic at a small sensor current,
comprising the steps of dividing a whole luminous area of an image into a plurality of continuous divisions and converting input data of the image from the image sensor by using a conversion table into output-image data with an emphasis on a change in brightness in each of plural luminous divisions by using a conversion table to

~~convert the input data to output data~~ the divisions to represent the luminous distribution like a gray level contour line map.

8. (canceled)

9. (original) An image processing device as defined in claim 7, wherein a whole brightness area of an image is divided by the conversion table into a plurality of continuous divisions, wider for a dark portion and narrower for a light portion desirable to be emphasized in contrast, and a continuous change in brightness in each of the divisions is emphasized.

10. (original) An image processing device as defined in claim 7, wherein a whole luminous area of an image is divided by the conversion table into a plurality of discrete divisions and a change in brightness in each of the divisions separately emphasized.

11. (original) An image processing device as defined in claim 10, wherein each of luminous areas between discrete divisions are converted into halftone image data.

12. (canceled)